



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony presented to the Joint Committee on Judiciary

Chief Anthony Salvatore and Chief Matthew Reed for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents all municipal police departments in Connecticut as well as police departments at private and state universities.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association **SUPPORTS** H.B. 5534, AAC Robbery Committed at a Bank or Credit Union.

This proposal will amend Connecticut's robbery statute to include conduct not previously codified as constituting robbery but nonetheless out to be considered as such. The proposed bill will add to the definition of physical force or threatened physical force the act of wearing a mask, hood or other device designed to conceal the identity of such person and causing another person to reasonably fear for his or her safety.

In the past, the investigation of a bank robbery has been challenged when investigators learned that the alleged robber simply approached a bank employee, and handed to the employee a note demanding money. The robber may have been wearing a mask or other material clearly meant to disguise or protect their appearance. However, the robber did not make any overt threat or imply the possession of a weapon. Nonetheless, the employee is frightened and certainly is made to feel that he or she must comply with the demands of the robber.

The statute as it currently exists does not include this conduct as robbery. However, the proposed amendment would allow the described conduct to be deemed a violation of the robbery statute.

CPCA supports this proposed amendment to the robbery statute.

END